

====STATION RESPONSES====

compiled by PC Editor

Well I'm not too sure what has happened this time around with your station responses! As you can see, the list is a little thin on the ground. Oh well, I'm not one to complain. I suppose I could have written some more letters to stations myself and gained some statistics in that way. You would not believe how busy I have been though. As I write this page it is 2245 local time and I have had to endure six hours worth of exams today and my arms are just about dropping off with exhaustion! It's bad enough having to write PC without writing to radio stations as well. However, I don't mind any of it and as a great supporter of Free Radio, I certainly like to do my bit and over the last few days I have written quite a lot of letters and so there should be some more statistics ready for next time with any luck. Of course, your contributions would also be most welcome as well!

Radio Brigitte	SW	\$1	6 weeks	cd+st+info	FP
Emerald Radio International	SW	\$1	2 weeks	cd	FP
Diamond Radio	SW	\$1	3 weeks	sh	FP
Radio Francis Drake	SW	\$1	3 weeks	sh+ph	FP
Good Music Radio	SW	\$1	1 week		FP
Radio Rabbit International	SW	\$1	3 weeks	ll+cd+info	RP
Radio Safari	SW	\$1	14 weeks	cd+info	FP
Radio Waves International	SW	\$1	4 weeks	ll+cd+cass+booklet+CD	RP

KEY (DPRS)	forwarded by Dutch Pirate Radio Service	FP	Franck Parisot
lt	letter	info	information
cd	QLSL card	pc	publicity card
st	sticker	cass	audio tape
sh	sheet	pd	postcard
ph	photograph	ppc	prepared QSL

Here's something that might be of interest to some of you PC readers! I recently received a copy of a publication called "*The Wave*". I have never heard of it before but from looking closely at a number of points, have discovered that it is produced by one of our intrepid readers. It is quite interesting with news, amongst other things, about 48 metres activity and many stations moving to 76 metres. It is not your 'usual' pirate bulletin and is instead, quite witty and humourous! It even contains a very nice review of Pirate Chat. It is definitely worth sending for more details: c/o 51 St. Marks Road, Canvey Island, Essex, SS8 9NJ, England.

PIRATE CHAT
The ONLY publication to reflect the true pirate scene!

P.O. Box 1218, Chelmsford, Essex, England, CM1 4BD
c/o SRS, Ostra Porten 29, 442 54 Ytterby, Sweden

PIRATE CHAT

This issue features . . .

ISSUE No. 43/44 - JUNE 1994

PIRATES IN THE PROVINCES

RADIO AQUARIUS AND MY PART IN IT

RADIO JOYSTICK STORY

SCANDINAVIA ON AIR

The deadline for all contributions for the September issue of PIRATE CHAT is August 29th 1994.

PIRATE CHAT

Bi-monthly Free Radio News and Features

PIRATE CHAT MAGAZINE is published on a bi-monthly basis for world-wide distribution. We have readers all over the world as far away as the USA, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia.

PC usually contains around 30 - 40 packed pages with all sorts of news from FM, MW, SW, USA and much more, including special features. We believe that we are the **ONLY** publication to carry news from all bands on such a wide scale.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

A sample copy costs £1.

A six month subscription costs £6.

A year subscription costs £10.

This money is accepted in any currency but please make sure that all cheques, postal orders and eurocheques have the payee line left blank. Just fill in the amount of money to be paid but do not make the document payable to anybody. This ensures that we can easily put the money into our account.

ADVERTISING

Small non-profit making adverts can be placed in the magazine free of charge. Money making promotions will cost a small amount and for these, the editor should be contacted.

CONTENTS

- Page 3 UK FM News
- Page 5 Pirates in the Provinces
- Page 7 Radio Aquarius and My Part In It
- Page 10 Chris Feeny - Radio Joystick story
- Page 12 Technical Talk
- Page 14 Short Wave Logs at a Glance
- Page 16 A-Z Short Wave Section
- Page 22 Late Short Wave News
- Page 23 Trading Corner
- Page 24 Special North American Profiles
- Page 27 MW News From The Netherlands
- Page 28 Pirate Radio In France
- Page 29 Scandinavia On Air
- Page 30 The Subterranean Meeting
- Page 32 Station Responses

IT'S June and at long last we are back! Sorry for the delay in publishing this issue: I think that my ambitions to publish in May were a little shortsighted seeing as though most of you didn't receive the last PC until the end of April! Anyway, never fear because as has been the way with this magazine for nearly four years, it always goes to print eventually!

In this issue, all of the regulars can be found, including the UK FM News section which is nice and crammed this time. Continuing with the FM theme, intrepid reporter Terry Starr has produced a very interesting article concerning some of the other stations not listed in the main FM section, and Andy Howlett concludes the story of his days at Radio Aquarius.

Our feature Scandinavia On Air is back with more news from the Northern Europe SW scene and while I'm on the subject of SW, I would like to make a plea to some of the more respondent SW station operators. I would like to ask you what is the point of broadcasting on 48 metres when propagation conditions are so very unreliable??? Why not follow in the footsteps of stations like Subterranean Sounds and Live Wire who have swapped from this sometimes useless band, to more promising things on 76 metres. This area of SW is so much better; it must be when considering that I recently heard SS on less than 50 milliwatts of power over 100 miles away! Why not forget 6 MHz and swap to 3 MHz. Some people seem to have the idea that this is a night-time only band but you couldn't be further from the truth. I have heard some excellent signals during the morning and afternoon on this band, so why not give it a try? With the unreliable state of 48 metres at the moment, something has to change.

I have spoken to several people recently who have commented on the low SW activity levels on Sunday mornings. Little do people seem to realise that it isn't that the stations aren't there but that many people just can't hear them. 76 metres has much more scope than 48 metres and while I'm on the subject, what's so special about Sundays? Who says that the bulk of SW pirate activity has to be on this day? It seems to me that a lot of SW operators should take a leaf from the Dutch pirate way of thinking and broadcast at absolutely any time. It is as though a lot of SW pirates are unable to do anything outside of a Sunday. This has been the way for decades; isn't it time for change - **IT IS 1994!!!!!!**

Anyway, I'll just climb down from the soapbox and after saying that my comments are not meant at anybody specifically, tell you all to enjoy reading PC and have a great summer. ■

73s - PC Editor

UK FM NEWS

All info from April and May

Compiled by The Chief Editor

LONDON AND SURROUNDING AREAS	103.60 REFLEX	102.00 CENTRAL
87.65 RHYTHM	104.10 IMPULSE	102.20 BAD
87.90 ENERGY	104.40 IMPACT	103.65 STING
88.10 SHAKEDOWN	105.20 W.N.K.R.	105.50 ZEE 100
88.40 UNITY	105.25 GALAXY	107.00 NOVA
88.80 SUNRISE	105.70 HOTWIRE	107.30 CNFM
89.85 STATION	105.90 CONCEPT	107.60 PUMP
90.00 FORCE	105.95 ROCK 106	107.90 CRUISE
90.05 SHOCKIN'	106.05 ROY	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
90.30 INDEX	106.40 FORCE	87.90 HEATWAVE
90.40 PEEPS	106.60 GIRLS	97.35 HORIZON
90.40 DREAM	106.90 W.G.A.S.	101.35 EASTSIDE SOUND
90.60 PULSE	107.00 VIOLATION	102.50 POWER
91.00 LIGHTNING	107.70 ODYSSEY	105.50 VIBE
91.60 GENESIS	WEST MIDLANDS	105.70 CENTRE
92.00 POWERJAM	90.00 SANGAM	106.25 BREEZE
92.25 RUSH	92.00 APNA	106.50 BUZZ
92.60 BOSS	94.25 SKYLINE	106.60 SUNRISE
92.70 LONDON	99.40 RHYTHM	106.70 SOUND
92.85 BUZZ	100.70 EXILE	106.95 SURE
92.95 PARADISE	101.40 LINK	107.00 PULSE
93.20 FORMAT	101.50 FUSION	107.30 CITY
93.20 LAZOR	101.50 RESPECT	107.70 GLOBE
93.80 VIBES	101.80 POWAH	SOUTH YORKSHIRE
94.00 S.O.L.	102.00 PULSE	87.80 ASIAN RADIO LINK
94.30 SKY	102.00 FREEDOM	100.70 FRESH
94.50 KOOL	103.50 PCRL	102.05 FREEDOM
95.40 FUNCTION	105.30 METRO	105.70 FANTASY
96.10 ZOOM	105.40 ELITE	106.00 DRUM AND BASS
96.25 SUPERFRESH	105.70 SUPREME	106.45 PITCH
97.85 BASSLINE	105.70 STEREO 105	107.20 S.C.R.
98.20 QUEST	105.95 RESPECT	LEICESTERSHIRE
98.20 UNIQUE	106.30 SANGET	105.50 FRESH
98.35 VIBES	106.30 FRONTLINE	106.30 MIX
98.50 ELITE	106.60 KAOS	106.40 GHETTO
99.30 IRIE	106.70 CRYSTAL	106.80 RAP ATTACK
99.40 MYSTIC	106.80 JOY	107.50 KICKIN'
99.60 RAGGA	107.00 JUICE	GLASGOW
100.40 CYNDICUT	107.20 DUBB	87.90 ACTIV
100.50 ECLIPSE	107.80 DANCE (tentative)	100.00 RUSH
100.60 RUDE GIRLS	MERSEYSIDE	100.30 PURE
100.65 PLEASURE	88.00 HITS 88	100.50 KAOS
101.30 ERUPTION	99.70 CHAKA	100.60 DREAM
101.55 PRESSURE	99.80 MERSEYWAVES	101.00 PULSE
101.80 FREAK	100.30 CONCEPT	105.50 S.W.R.
102.90 CHILLIN'	100.40 FREE	In the West Midlands area,
	100.80 CLUB	JUICE who are running
		around 5 watts in the
		Birmingham area, hope to

be upgrading to 50 watts (the old JOY FM transmitter) and so expanding their coverage area.

The station will undergo a name change to LETHAL and should be active on 99.80. Meanwhile, JOY should be running 100 watts stereo in the near future and perhaps the latest big news is the return of FREEDOM. This coincides with the return of the very original FREEDOM operated by Craig Benson, which is now active in South Yorkshire. The West Midland FREEDOM counterpart of several years ago is EXILE, who are still up and running and possibly soon to be featured in the nationwide Generator magazine. EXILE can be heard nearly every weekend despite hassles that have recently been experienced. Equipment

valued at over £1,500 has been taken in the last few months, some stolen from rival pirates. To date, one 50 watt rig and six 100 watt rigs have been taken, in addition to studio equipment. Also in the West Midlands, new addition CRYSTAL has been testing and hopes to be the new big station for the area.

CONTRIBUTORS

Ewen Cathcart, Glasgow
 Dave Martin, London
 Ronald McGill, Notts
 Anthony Page, London
 Jeff Stevenson, West Midlands
 James Thompson, West Midlands
 James Welsh, Merseyside ■

FM1 BROADCAST TRANSMITTERS.

Frequency Coverage	88 - 108 MHz
Frequency Stability	+ or - 5 kHz
Power Requirements	12 - 13.8V DC@250 Ma
Rf Output	1 Watt 50 Ohms

The FM1 comes complete in a smart aluminium case measuring 9x5x2.5", and is pre-aligned and tested on the frequency of your choice.

Two models are available; the FM1 and the FM1PX. The FM1PX has the benefit of Pre-emphasis which is an audio shaping network (similar to an equaliser) which cuts bass distortion and increases treble response.

The front panel has a phono socket for audio connections, "power on I.e.d. indicator", Pre-emphasis on or off switch* and an audio gain control.
 * (for model FM1PX).

The rear panel has connections for DC power and an so239 socket for the antenna.

PRICES:

FM1	1 WATT BROADCAST TX	£40.00
FM1PX	WITH PRE-EMPHASIS	£45.00
POSTAGE AND PACKING		£2.00

Send your orders via the PC mail drop in Chelmsford. ■

Pirates in the Provinces

by Terry Starr

Kent and the Medway

97.90 MHz TOUCH FM

Rave, House, Trance and Techno:
 Fridays 6.00 pm until Midnight
 Sundays

Brighton and the South Downs

93.20 MHz Friends Radio

Rave, House, Hip-Hop and Techno

Bristol and the West Country

101.25 MHz R.A.W. Radio

Reggae, Soul and Hip-Hop:
 Weekends

104.00 MHz Power FM

Rave, House, Techno, Soul and
 Dance: Weekends

105.05 MHz Ragga FM

Reggae, Ragga and, surprisingly,
 Dance and Soul

Oxford and Banbury

105.70 MHz Dark FM

Dance and Rave: Thursday and
 Saturdays from 10.00 pm

Edinburgh and the Forth

100.00 MHz Boomerang FM

Rave, Dance and Techno

Ipswich and Suffolk

frequency unknown ICR FM

N.B.: THE pirate station broadcasting to the Leicestershire / Worcestershire borders, **Mix FM**, on 106.30 MHz, has begun promoting itself as conducting occasional transmissions on shortwave. Whether this is via air-time hired from an existing SW pirate, or through their own equipment, is unknown.

The operator of the former only "pirate in Wales" or as they said "mor-leidr yn Gymru", which variously broadcast to Aberystwyth, Trefechan and Penparcau on 90.00, 96.00, and 100.00 MHz during 1993 has announced that the station was merely a technical experiment and will not be operating again. The monstrous bleed over throughout the area from the Blaenpwyf 250 kW main station on FM continues unabated and, should anyone even attempt to launch a pirate station in the Yswyth valley again, transmitter site, frequency choice, and transmitting power will be of especial importance. Meanwhile, band-checks made on Maundy Thursday (March 31st) at Newport and Cardiff revealed not a trace of Free Radio activity from South Wales, either on FM or MW.

Of the pirate stations operating in Bristol, **Power FM** is by far the most technically competent, its signal reaching all parts of the city, and its audio and stereo separation being second to none, something all too lacking on the FM pirate frequencies these days. Programme presentation too, is smooth and accomplished, although not over slick. **R.A.W.** and **Ragga FM** have less powerful signals, although both can be received quite well throughout much of the city with patience and a decent aerial. Their modulation is occasionally distorted, unfortunately, and the presentation of some of the output in heavy West Indian patois makes understanding some programmes quite difficult.

BAKAR RADIO, which would have been two years old on April 8th, have not been noted on 105.30 MHz, or anywhere else for that matter recently, and so appear to have suspended transmissions for the time being. The reason behind this move is not known, but whatever the case, is something of a shame. From its roots as a station playing almost exclusively traditional Asian music from the so-called "Bollywood" multi million Indian film industry soundtracks, the station had blossomed into an enjoyable attempt at true community broadcasting, catering for Banghra, Soul, Reggae, Asian-House, Techno, and ultimately fairly mainstream dance music as well. The station has also grown technically, with increasingly stable audio, and a fair signal, accompanied by more proficient studio presentation and the adoption of English as the language of all major station identifications and announcements (for the benefit of both English listeners and younger Asian monoglot listeners) made its programmes much more easy to listen to than those of **R.A.W.** or **Ragga FM**.

As for **Ragga FM** itself, very little seems to be known about this pirate newcomer at the moment. The possibility, suggested by the station's location on the dial, that they had perhaps purchased the transmitter of **Bakar Radio** (*one hopes that an alternative possibility, transmitter-thieving, a very self-defeating and unfortunate phenomenon in FM Pirate Radio in parts of the UK is not a feature of the Bristol scene*) would seem to be refuted by the fact of **Ragga's** relatively limited signal strength, although, of course, changes in the transmitter site can do odd things to reception patterns. Furthermore, it is worth bearing in mind that throughout its history, **Bakar Radio** never enjoyed nearly as much of the advertising custom enjoyed by either the average West Indian or Rave pirates in this country, and so financial difficulties may have forced them to switch off and sell the transmitter to another group, although, of course all this remains pure speculation. Whatever the case, however, **Ragga FM**'s output is comparable closely to that of **R.A.W. Radio**, with an overwhelming emphasis on reggae music of various styles, although with some Soul, Hip Hop and House music at times. The sense of *deja-vu* is heightened by the fact that many of the **Ragga FM** presenters sound suspiciously familiar from their older competitors . . . indeed, many of the staff at both **Ragga** and **R.A.W.** have been involved with various previous pirates, with voices recognisable from **S.P.E.C., Magnum Radio, Shades of Soul Radio** and the rest. It has not been unknown in the past for presenters to have shifts at more than one pirate station; in one or two cases the ironies of the scheduling system leaving a presenter only a few minutes to finish his / her stint on one pirate, before jetting off to begin the next programme on another pirate!

Against this background, it is interesting to note that **Power FM** sounds quite alien, for, despite their focus on black music, and their employment of many black presenters, they are not involved in, for example, hosting inter-pirate "reggae clashes" jointly held between pirates as is the case with **Ragga** and **R.A.W.**. Their musical output too is different, the emphasis being on Rave, Soul, Techno and all its subdivisions, House and Hip-Hop; i.e.) those elements of black music which have a relatively large white following (*although this imbalance is being addressed in that great underground with is "yoot culture" in the favour of reggae at the moment*) and what with more white presenters on air than the other pirates as well as its more "accessible" format, **Power FM** seems not so much a West Indian pirate as a mix, drifting between being a West Indian station and a Rave pirate, with elements of the hobby-pirate style of broadcasting thrown in aswell.

The West Midlands based Rave, Techno and Dance music pirate station, **Exile Radio**, has, as was the case during the Christmas and New Year holidays, been audible from time to time in Bristol on 100.70 MHz, with a poor, but distinct signal, and, compared with even **Power FM**'s programmes, a very professional, perhaps even rather commercialised sounding output. ■

RADIO AND MY PART IN IT . . . AQUARIUS

by Andy Howlett

The final instalment

SOMEWHAT cheesed off by the raid at Heald Green, plans were made for an Aquarius Christmas Special. It would be live, high powered, and take place over Christmas Eve and Christmas Day 1974. It would mean bringing out of retirement the 400 watt, which has been gathering dust for a few months. By now, one of the 813 PA valves had passed away, but the genuine RCA one was still capable of a healthy output.

Somehow we managed to gain access to a student's flat, almost right in the centre of Manchester. Tim and Stuart supplied most of the studio gear and it was installed the day before the broadcast was due to take place. But there was a major problem - the flat was only about twenty feet above ground level, with no way of getting a decent vertical wire up. So we ended up with a short horizontal aerial, right inside the built up centre of the city. This was not exactly a recipe for success, especially as the earthing system left a lot to be desired as well. But I didn't care much, as by this time my heart was no longer in it. Aquarius had stayed on this long only because of Stuart's strong leadership - we had all been prosecuted, some of us (especially Bob) more than once, and we were becoming very jumpy.

Even installing the transmitter was not without its hazards. On the day, we loaded it onto a large luggage trolley and wheeled it towards the flat entrance, only to be stopped on the way by a student who asked silly questions like "What's that?" My answer was that we were a rock group, and that this collection of powerful electronics was our 2 kW amplifier system. He eyed the aerial tuning section suspiciously, and then asked why an audio power amplifier needs coils and tuning capacitors. I couldn't think of a

sensible answer (let's face it, there isn't one!) so I mumbled something about radio harmonics and radio interference as I pushed the trolley through the door. Once inside, it was 'simply' a matter of connecting the audio, mains and aerial leads and tuning up. It is never that simple however, and as I expected, the crummy aerial didn't want to do anything with the 400 watts of RF we were trying to shove up it. Because of this, there was RF all over the place, especially through the mixer and record decks, causing awful squealing and grunting noises, through which could be heard Tim's voice testing the microphone.

Eventually, by re-routing cables and connecting extra earth wires, we stabilised everything. Then we all made a quick exit, leaving Tim to do his programme.

Stuart, Bob and I were conspicuous by our absence for the rest of the transmission, and I still feel pangs of guilt whenever I hear the tape of Tim saying "Well, I'm afraid that neither of our other DJs can make it into the studio today . . ." The truth was that our bottle had gone, and we were much happier spending our Christmas holidays at home, well out of harm's way.

Despite the poor aerial, the signal across Manchester was very strong, flattening the European stations on the frequency. Unfortunately, about half way through the broadcast, the much over-run 813 valve decided to throw in the towel, causing the quality of modulation to suffer. The last few hours of Tim's solo spot sounded pretty rough. I wasn't present when the transmitter was removed from the flat, but somehow I ended up with the enormous mairis transformer which I used for many years as a weight for the back of my car in snowy weather! ▶

The rest of it found its way to Stuart's home, where it was finally broken up.

After the Christmas special, things were at a very low ebb, but there was at least one more transmission from Aquarius. This 'final challenge' took place in January 1975. Although not really interested any more, I allowed myself to be persuaded to throw together a mains powered 20 watt medium waver, and we smuggled it into an empty house in (surprise) Wilmslow. The usual quarter-waver inverted L aerial was erected, and when it was time to 'find' some mains electricity, all eyes fell on me. There was none at the sockets of course, and the distribution board was dead. So I took a trip down to the cellar and applied my trusty voltmeter to the ends of the dangerous looking 'tails' which emerged from the wall. Bingo! 240 best British Volts. (DISCLAIMER TIM . . . DON'T DO IT). With the aid of a couple of crocodile clips and a steady nerve, I tapped onto the supply, and we were ready to go. I don't know much about the electricity board's arrangements, but I suspect a short circuit at this point would have caused a massive bang, to say the least!

With everything ready, it was time to tune up and start the tape. The Aquarius theme, 'The Age of Aquarius' by the Fifth Dimension, hit the airwaves again, neither ourselves nor our listeners realising that it was for the last time.

Everything went smoothly, all of us keeping a safe distance from the site except to change tapes. Near the end of the broadcast, Barry, an occasional helper turned up. He had never been prosecuted, so it only seemed fair that he should go in to retrieve the equipment at the end. Needless to say the rest of us ran off and left him to it. The telephones were busy that night, hot with the news that Barry had been well and truly caught 'red handed'. Just as he had tucked the transmitter under his arm, who should appear but our old friends, the PO and

police. After inspecting my dangerous mains wiring, they decided to charge Barry with 'stealing electricity'!

This incident was the last straw for most of us. It was clear that the PO had got it in for us in no small way. Our already crumbling nerves finally gave way, and one by one we pulled out of the pirate radio scene to return to our law abiding lives.

One or two memories have flitted through my mind whilst I have been writing this series. There was the time at Parr's Wood when we hurried back to the transmitter to investigate the cause of funny crackling noises on our transmission, only to find a Doberman the size of a donkey emptying its bladder all over the equipment! . . .

. . . Then there was the 'Saddleworth Climb'. Saddleworth is a hilly area to the north-east of Manchester that we had chosen for a VHF broadcast. After a couple of hours, the on-site staff consisting of Bob, Trevor and one or two of the Petes were taken completely by surprise when a shout of "NOW!" was heard, and they found themselves almost surrounded by the PO, police and dogs. A chase ensued in which Pete lost one of his shoes and Trevor ran flat out for half a mile, powered by only one lung (he had lost the other in a childhood illness).

Well, that's it; the almost complete story of Aquarius as I saw it. Reading through what I've written for PC over the last year or so, I may have given the impression that we never got a full transmission out because of raids. But half a dozen or so raids over two years isn't that bad, although at the end of 1974 with four raids in as many months was rather hard. Remember though, that between these raids were many weeks of full uninterrupted broadcasts, and as far as I can recall, we missed only two Sundays in all that time.

Luckily, Bob has kept all the jingles and adverts he made, and several hours of studio and off air recordings are still in existence. Whenever I listen to these tapes, I hear the voices of me and my friends talking about things that really mattered to us, like radio, freedom of speech and music. And judging by the letters we received, our listeners were pleased with what they heard. Nowadays, people just want to press to press a button and hear their favourite station in clear stereo with no fading and no twiddling. Back then, people were prepared to put up with the vagaries of radio to listen to something interesting out of the ordinary. These people weren't 'anoraks'. They weren't SW listeners or MW DXers. They were ordinary everyday folks who were bored with the sound of the establishment, and who were prepared to turn a knob or two to see if they could find something different.

What will happen when Digital Audio Broadcasting arrives? I'm afraid that the magic will disappear for good, and that the radio set will be reduced to the status of just another household appliance, like the TV or food mixer - just plug in and go, to tuning, nothing to fiddle with.

In 20 years time will there be anything on MW or SW? Anything to null out or peak up? Or will everything be delivered to our homes in cleverly encoded digits on pre-set channels, with no chance of 'alternative' channels making themselves heard?

Oh dear, I seem to have got out of bed on the wrong side today - perhaps other PC readers have less pessimistic views. If so, I'd love to see them here in the magazine.

Well, here we are making our way back to the Time Tunnel for our return trip. While we've been enjoying ourselves in 1974, time in 1994 has stood still. No-one will know you've been away. Behind us lies the action packed Pirate Radio days

of the 70s, ahead is the grown up world of wives, mortgages, phone bills and all the other unavoidable responsibilities of adulthood . . . Hmm . . . You now what? I'm staying in the tunnel!

AND NOW FOR THE CREDITS

Thanks to Pete, Frank, John, and especially Bob for plugging the gap where my memory used to be. Also, thanks to Hazel for her proof reading.

Bob and I are doing further research in the hope of producing a book all about Aquarius. We have recently unearthed several press cuttings and photographs which (we hope) will find their way into the finished product.

Finally, thanks to our PC Editor for agreeing not to pay me a penny for all the hard work I've put into this . . . in that case, I've got just one thing to say:

COPYRIGHT RETAINED, A.J. HOWLETT 1994. ■

FREE RADIO TAPES

To accompany the Radio Aquarius story that has been told in Pirate Chat for the last year, RadioGold tapes have some unique recordings of this and many other North-West pirates. **Please note that the address is slightly different to that published in previous issues:**

43 Cheetham Hill Road,
Dunkinfield, Cheshire,
England, SK16 5JL.

Chris Feeny's

c/o EPR, 14 Stone Row,
Coleraine, Co. Derry,
Northern Ireland.

This station was founded at the start of 1985 and because of the computer-boom in the mid-80s, it was decided to use the name Radio Joystick. Also, a good distinctive track was found in the archives as a theme tune, the Dazz Band and "Joystick".

The first test programmes were planned for summer '85. In March, a relay-request was sent to Radio Milano International and a relay was arranged for July 14th. On this date, Joystick could be heard for the very first time, via RMI on 7295 with 1000 watts and also on 1301 kHz with 5000 watts. Different parts of a two hour test programme could be heard each weekend until the end of August, for which, nearly 100 letters were received at the RJ HQ, mainly from East and West Germany, and from Sweden.

In September the regular programmes started, each one of a two hour duration, containing Fun, Soul and Disco music and being repeated twice by RMI.

February '86 and a second outlet was found with Radio 101 from the Republic of Ireland. The old test programme could now be heard on 7350 kHz as well. Because it was an old programme, the announced mailing address in Bremen was no longer valid and so caused some confusion with the listeners and quite a few reports never reached the station.

In March '86, the "FRS Goes Dx" magazine reported that Joystick was looking for new presenters because three members of the crew were leaving the station to begin their own Free Radio projects. It was also reported that two regular programmes were cancelled via RMI for various reasons which can best be described as discontent with

Pirate Thoughts

programme quality. Also, station manager Charly Prince was forced to announce that for several private reasons, mail could not be answered until February '87. But nevertheless, after two months the regular programmes via RMI continued and from April - June '86, three new DJs could be heard. These three gentlemen presented programmes called "Introdisco" and "Soundtrack".

September '86 came and it was one year since the regular programmes were produced and as a special bonus, each listener who sent a report, received a free studio copy of the birthday programme.

At the end of January 1987, RMI closed down forever, but despite this loss of the main outlet, Radio Joystick could be heard via two other stations; these were Radio 101 and via the German colleagues, Radio Tutenchamun (the station who made a surprising (one-off??) comeback in 1993).

In December '87, Jeff Anderson from Radio Pogo 104 joined Joystick and regular programmes via the Scottish Free Radio Network (SFRN) were planned but these never took place. In fact, in 1988, Joystick were heard just twice via the SFRN.

1989 and 1990 saw a few new relay opportunities for Radio Joystick e.g. Radio Europe on 7295 kHz, Radio Waves International from France on 7473 kHz, and Radio Orion from England.

Between 1990 and 1993, nothing was heard from the station due to two reasons: firstly because Joystick was receiving fewer and fewer letters and secondly due to personal circumstances.

However, in 1993, Joystick returned for a single relay via Radio Helgoland. This took place on February 28th but since then, nothing has been noted.

CHRIS FEENY'S PIRATE THOUGHTS

The second is the well-known Wuppertal one!

Each correct reception report will be confirmed with a nice looking QSL card, the current information sheet and also a personal letter from Charly.

Radio Joystick have never owned their own transmitter, but nevertheless they have gained reports from all corners of Europe, with listeners even as far away as Algeria! Whether they will ever return to the airwaves again is unknown. As many Free Radio stations operators will know though, once the broadcast bug is in the blood, it never quite goes away altogether!

Radio Joystick has two different mailing addresses; the first (and the quicker) is:

P.O. Box 100812
45408 Mülheim
Germany

Whatever you do - don't dare miss PC September!!!

PIRATE CHAT would like to make a special plea to operators of short wave Free Radio stations

Propagation conditions, especially on 48 metres, the main SW pirate band, are totally unreliable at present, due to unsettled propagation. This is likely to continue for many months, possibly years. Therefore, we would like to urge as many stations as possible to move to the 76 metre band. Contrary to popular belief, signals will travel very well both day and night on this band, and noise levels are so low during daylight hours that reception can often be very good. Why, therefore, broadcast on 48 metres on the off chance that somebody might just about hear you?

76 metres is the way ahead, and for those of you not already taking advantage of the band, do it today!

Technical Talk

by Dave Martin (WNKR)

Just recently the need for an antenna for use on 3.9 MHz, 76 metres arose again. The only problem was that we didn't have enough room for a full size antenna. So I set about designing one that would be a lot shorter and still give a good SWR without the need for an ATU. The diagram on the next page shows what I came up with and after testing the 76 metre band antenna, we constructed one for 48 metres.

L1 and L2 are loading coils, both identical, and are wound on 40 mm diameter plumbers' plastic pipe. The wire used was plastic insulated.

These are the measurements for the two antennas:

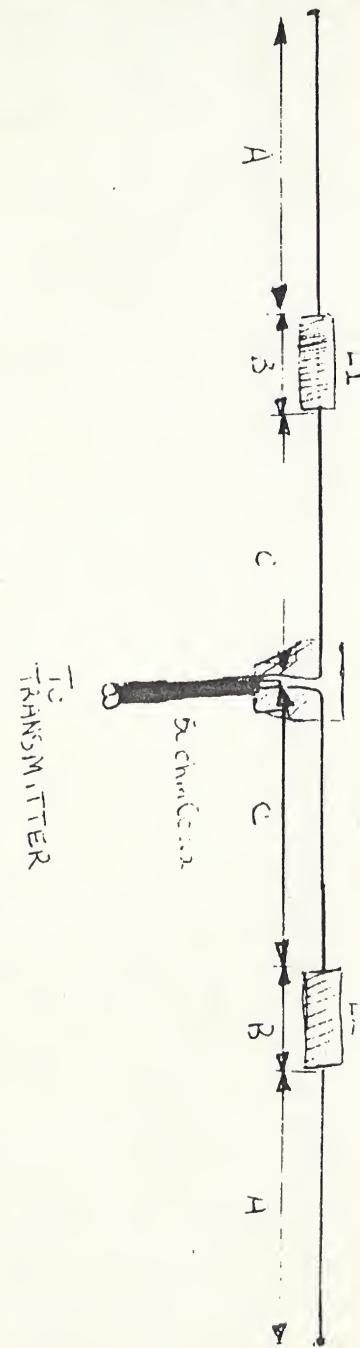
	76 metres	48 metres
'A'	4.11 metres	2.56 metres
'B'	306 millimetres	180 millimetres
'C'	4.63 metres	2.89 metres
'L1'	72 turns	45 turns
'L2'	72 turns	45 turns

As you see, both versions are under half normal size. To adjust SWR trim the far ends.

PIRATE CHAT

The **ONLY** Free Radio magazine to include news from FM, MW and SW.

Enter a new dimension in true pirate reporting by subscribing **TODAY!**



Short Wave Logs At A Glance

All times UTC
compiled by Pirate Chat Editor

Wednesday 6th April 1994

3938 1624 RADIO MOONLIGHT
 Saturday 9th April 1994
 3905 1602 RADIO METEOR
 3905 1635 SUBTERRANEAN SOUNDS
 3905 2247 SUBTERRANEAN SOUNDS
 3909 2153 RANDOM
 3920 1706 RADIO DAIWA
 3932 1647 RADIO METEOR
 3933 1648 RADIO JIMMY INTERNATIONAL
 3933 1702 RADIO BLACK EAGLE
 Sunday 10th April 1994
 3907 0917 RADIO JIMMY INTERNATIONAL
 3913 0913 RADIO MOONLIGHT
 6210 1058 OZONE RADIO INTERNATIONAL
 6229 0945 JOLLY ROGER RADIO
 6295 0913 RADIO CAROLINE
 7294 0918 RADIO EUROPE
 Saturday 23rd April 1994
 3920 1650 RADIO BLACK EAGLE
 6209 1205 JOLLY ROGER RADIO
 Sunday 24th April 1994
 6210 1017 OZONE RADIO INTERNATIONAL
 6219 0958 FREE RADIO SERVICE HOLLAND
 6225 0958 OZONE RADIO INTERNATIONAL
 6234 0958 JOLLY ROGER RADIO
 6234 1016 BRITAIN RADIO INTERNATIONAL
 6257 0958 XENON TRANSMITTING COMPANY
 6295 0959 RADIO CAROLINE
 6557 1000 RADIO BRIGITTE
 7480 0958 RADIO BENELUX
 Saturday 30th April 1994
 3913 0800 RADIO MOONLIGHT
 6219 1015 WORLD'S GREATEST ANORAK
 6229 1031 RADIO MARABU
 6229 1049 JOLLY ROGER RADIO
 6229 1146 LASER HOT HITS
 6229 1238 BRITAIN RADIO INTERNATIONAL
 6295 1021 RADIO CAROLINE
 7294 1027 RADIO EUROPE
 Sunday 1st May 1994
 3913 0900 RADIO MOONLIGHT
 3918 0728 OZONE RADIO INTERNATIONAL
 3922 0700 OZONE RADIO INTERNATIONAL
 3930 2130 OZONE RADIO INTERNATIONAL
 3945 2137 OZONE RADIO INTERNATIONAL
 5801 0810 OZONE RADIO INTERNATIONAL
 6210 0955 OZONE RADIO INTERNATIONAL
 6210 1417 OZONE RADIO INTERNATIONAL
 6219 0855 'WORLD'S GREATEST ANORAK
 6229 0855 JOLLY ROGER RADIO
 6255 0953 OPTIMOD
 6255 0956 RADIO EAST COAST COMMERCIAL
 6280 1024 RADIO GERONIMO (A)
 6295 0856 RADIO CAROLINE
 6299 1137 RADIO ORION
 6555 1138 RADIO BRIGITTE
 6820 0750 OZONE RADIO INTERNATIONAL

7294 0857 RADIO EUROPE

Monday 2nd May 1994
 6219 0829 WORLD'S GREATEST ANORAK
 6229 1201 RADIO MARABU
 6240 0922 JOLLY ROGER RADIO
 6295 0831 LASER HOT HITS
 Friday 6th May 1994
 3913 0910 RADIO MOONLIGHT
 Saturday 7th May 1994
 3905 1743 RADIO BLACK EAGLE
 3905 1750 STARSHINE RADIO
 3910 2250 RADIO PIRANA INTERNATIONAL
 3915 2346 WAVE RADIO INTERNATIONAL
 3915 2355 STARSHINE RADIO
 3920 2236 STARSHINE RADIO
 3920 2322 RADIO JIMMY INTERNATIONAL
 3935 2320 SIERRA FOXTROT ZERO THREE
 3935 2344 WAVE RADIO INTERNATIONAL
 3935 2345 RADIO PIRANA INTERNATIONAL
 3938 2237 RADIO JIMMY INTERNATIONAL
 3944 1723 RADIO MOONLIGHT (tentative)
 Sunday 8th May 1994
 3920 1625 RADIO METEOR
 3938 1628 RADIO MOONLIGHT
 5800 2031 OZONE RADIO INTERNATIONAL
 5900 1124 OZONE RADIO INTERNATIONAL
 3915 0000 RADIO FUSION INTERNATIONAL
 6210 1046 OZONE RADIO INTERNATIONAL
 6229 1046 JOLLY ROGER RADIO
 6257 0745 RADIO PIRANA INTERNATIONAL
 6257 1340 RADIO PIRANA INTERNATIONAL
 6304 1025 FREE RADIO SERVICE LONDON
 Wednesday 11th May 1994
 3905 2255 SUBTERRANEAN SOUNDS
 3920 1630 RADIO METEOR
 3938 1630 RADIO MOONLIGHT
 Thursday 12th May 1994
 3905 2251 SIERRA FOXTROT ZERO THREE
 Saturday 14th May 1994
 3905 1650 SUBTERRANEAN SOUNDS
 3905 2255 SUBTERRANEAN SOUNDS
 3905 2347 STARSHINE RADIO
 3910 2210 RADIO CITY
 3911 2113 RADIO PACMAN
 3943 2301 RADIO PACMAN
 Sunday 15th May 1994
 3910 0011 STARSHINE RADIO
 3911 0054 RADIO PACMAN
 3915 0022 RADIO MOONLIGHT
 3915 0026 STARSHINE RADIO
 3915 0127 DELTA BRAVO
 3920 0147 DELTA BRAVO
 3938 0008 RADIO MOONLIGHT
 6210 0955 OZONE RADIO INTERNATIONAL
 6229 0955 JOLLY ROGER RADIO
 6280 1022 GOOD MUSIC RADIO
 6290 1110 XENON TRANSMITTING COMPANY
 7294 0956 RADIO EUROPE

SHORTWAVE LOGS AT A GLANCE

Saturday 21st May 1994

3910 2210 STARSHINE RADIO
 3910 2305 RADIO PIRANA (spool)
 3945 2342 LIVE WIRE RADIO
 6205 1547 RADIO METEOR
 6229 2345 JOLLY ROGER RADIO
 6295 1548 RADIO MARABU

Sunday 22nd May 1994

3913 0040 STARSHINE RADIO
 3913 0044 RADIO MOONLIGHT
 3913 0058 WAVE RADIO INTERNATIONAL
 3920 0015 RADIO JIMMY INTERNATIONAL
 3920 0017 WAVE RADIO INTERNATIONAL
 3920 0019 STARSHINE RADIO
 3920 0128 RADIO PIRANA INTERNATIONAL

3938 0114 RADIO MOONLIGHT
 3945 0110 RADIO PIRANA INTERNATIONAL
 3945 0113 STARSHINE RADIO
 6205 1144 RADIO BLACK EAGLE
 6206 0904 RADIO NORTHLIGHT
 6210 1204 RADIO GLORIA INTERNATIONAL

6219 0908 AURA
 6229 0855 JOLLY ROGER RADIO
 6255 1057 RADIO ARMADILLO
 6286 0939 RADIO PIRANA (spool)
 6295 0850 RADIO WAHNSINN
 6295 0956 RADIO MARABU
 7294 1009 RADIO EUROPE
 7484 0955 RADIO MARABU

Saturday 28th May 1994

3910 2208 STARSHINE RADIO
 3910 2309 WAVE RADIO INTERNATIONAL
 3910 2315 SIERRA FOXTROT ZERO THREE
 3915 2348 RADIO MOONLIGHT
 3945 2252 SUBTERRANEAN SOUNDS

Sunday 29th May 1994

3915 0002 RADIO FUSION INTERNATIONAL
 3915 0004 STARSHINE RADIO
 3922 2320 RADIO PIRANA INTERNATIONAL
 3922 2320 SIERRA FOXTROT ZERO THREE
 3935 2321 SIERRA FOXTROT ZERO THREE
 3935 2322 RADIO PIRANA INTERNATIONAL

3945 1239 SUBTERRANEAN SOUNDS
 3945 1245 LIVE WIRE RADIO
 3945 2332 LIVE WIRE RADIO
 5769 1919 OZONE RADIO INTERNATIONAL
 5810 1900 OZONE RADIO INTERNATIONAL
 6210 1105 OZONE RADIO INTERNATIONAL
 6225 1245 RADIO PANDORA
 6229 1100 JOLLY ROGER RADIO

6295 0910 WORLD'S GREATEST ANORAK
 6400 0907 ANGEL FM

Wednesday 1st June 1994

3920 1753 RADIO METEOR
 3938 1728 RADIO MOONLIGHT
 3945 2205 SUBTERRANEAN SOUNDS

3945 2239 SIERRA FOXTROT ZERO THREE

Friday 3rd June 1994

3945 2238 RADIO PIRANA INTERNATIONAL
 3945 2252 SUBTERRANEAN SOUNDS

Saturday 4th June 1994

3920 1704 RADIO METEOR
 3925 2304 SOUTHERN MUSIC RADIO

3945 1218 SIERRA FOXTROT ZERO THREE
 3945 1219 SUBTERRANEAN SOUNDS

3945 1402 SUBTERRANEAN SOUNDS
 3945 1429 LIVE WIRE RADIO

3945 1620 SUBTERRANEAN SOUNDS
 3945 2235 SUBTERRANEAN SOUNDS

3945 2303 LIVE WIRE RADIO

6295 1544 RADIO CAROLINE

Sunday 5th June 1994

3920 1616 RADIO METEOR

3920 2005 RADIO JIMMY INTERNATIONAL

3931 2014 RADIO MOONLIGHT

3931 2045 RADIO METEOR (tentative)

3945 1135 SUBTERRANEAN SOUNDS

6210 1100 OZONE RADIO INTERNATIONAL

6229 0925 JOLLY ROGER RADIO

6255 0942 RADIO EAST COAST COMMERCIAL

6295 0028 RADIO CAROLINE

6295 0924 RADIO CAROLINE

6400 0929 ANGEL FM

7294 0933 RADIO EUROPE

Monday 6th June 1994

3920 2123 RADIO JIMMY INTERNATIONAL

3938 2108 RADIO MOONLIGHT

3945 2115 SUBTERRANEAN SOUNDS

6295 1010 RADIO CAROLINE

Tuesday 7th June 1994

3920 2100 RADIO JIMMY INTERNATIONAL

3932 2107 RADIO MOONLIGHT

Wednesday 8th June 1994

5830 2045 OZONE RADIO INTERNATIONAL

6277 2108 OZONE RADIO INTERNATIONAL

Thursday 9th June 1994

3931 2128 RADIO PACMAN

3945 2214 LIVE WIRE RADIO

3945 2329 SIERRA FOXTROT ZERO THREE

Saturday 11th June 1994

3908 2254 STARSHINE RADIO

3920 2306 RADIO JIMMY INTERNATIONAL

3920 2309 SIERRA FOXTROT ZERO THREE

3920 2331 WAVE RADIO INTERNATIONAL

3920 2357 STARSHINE RADIO

3945 2308 LIVE WIRE RADIO

6290 1000 RADIO HELGOLAND

6400 1845 ANGEL FM INTERNATIONAL

6400 2030 MAGNUM

Sunday 12th June 1994

6206 0938 RADIO NORTHSEA (Sweden)

6225 1033 OZONE RADIO INTERNATIONAL

6229 0938 JOLLY ROGER RADIO

6240 1216 OZONE RADIO INTERNATIONAL

6259 1147 RADIO GERONIMO (A)

6400 0935 ANGEL FM INTERNATIONAL

7294 0942 RADIO EUROPE

CONTRIBUTORS

Pirate Chat Editor

Swedish Report Service

Ronald McGill

Steve Midnight

Gary Stevens ■

A-Z Short Wave Section

Compiled by Pirate Chat Editor
All times UTC

Change Now
to 76 metres

RADIO AMAZONIA is one to listen out for in the very near future. In fact, their first relay broadcast should be taking place on June 18th. Tune in to 76 metres at around 2230 and catch the debut transmission which will be aired via SBC. ADD - c/o SRS / 4.

ANGEL FM INTERNATIONAL has been raided since the last time we spoke to you! This is a great shame because ANGEL had just established itself as probably the most friendly station operating on SW, sending goody bags to all listeners and printing regular info sheets and allowing people to walk in and out of the studio to give on-air greetings as they pleased. The raid took place by DTI officials and police officers who arrived to find ex-FREESOUND jock, Mark King enjoying a few beers and a dance to the record being played! There was no tension surrounding the bust and the ANGEL crew even supplied cups of tea for the visitors! Most of the equipment was taken and it seems that the raid took place because of previous telephone interference from the SW transmitter. This had since been solved but the authorities were following up a complaint that had been filed. The future includes relays on 6400 which are already going ahead, and various other plans which will become apparent in time. ADD - 3.

RADIO ARMADILLO has hit the airwaves a few more times recently and has been heard at our location with pretty good signals. Frequency is usually 6255 or 6292. Mr. Armadillo, I have worked out who you are and would very much like to visit if that is OK. In August, the

operator of **RADIO DELTA** (Ruurlo) is visiting me and I would like to show him the set-up of a typical English SW pirate. I wonder if I can bring him to see **RADIO ARMADILLO**. Perhaps you could drop me a line or two and pass on your telephone number to me. Oh yes, if you see somebody cycling up and down your road while you are on the air, don't worry because it will only be me! ADD - 4.

AURA returned to the airwaves for more fun and games on May 22nd, following their debut broadcast of last year. The frequency used was in between 6219 and 6220 and this ties in with the transmissions of **RADIO AMSTERDAM** last Christmas. Voices also sound familiar so I think I would be correct in saying that Herbie the Fish is the person behind this mysterious spoof station. Incidentally, Herbie is rumoured to be busy legally on Radio Tien Gold (675 MW).

RADIO BENELUX was heard here at the PC HQ on April 24th with an absolutely fantastic signal! This German pirate was heard better than ever before on their usual frequency of 7480. Skip and propagation have sure been strange of late and hearing BENELUX so well is one of the few good sides to such transitional conditions. ADD - 4.

RADIO BLACK EAGLE made a programmed 48 metre band transmission on May 22nd which was very nice to hear. Let's hope to hear more from this station in the future. The more Dutch SWers, the better! ADD - P.O. BOX 10, 7954 ZG Rouveen, Netherlands.

RADIO BRIGITTE is still active on a fairly regular basis with Sunday morning transmissions. 6 MHz is the place to check, but occasionally, some 41 metre band transmissions are aired. ADD - P.O. BOX 10, 7954 ZG Rouveen, Netherlands.

BRITAIN RADIO INTERNATIONAL's operator, Roger Davis, is very busy at the moment with personal matters, hence the station's absence from the bands. A couple of relays have been heard via JRR, but that's about all. ADD - 1+3.

RADIO CAROLINE is still audible on 6295 when propagation conditions allow. As an indicator to the transitional conditions, a few weeks ago, CAROLINE was blasting in at around 0030. No more than an hour later, the signal could not be heard. This only goes to show that 48 metres is far from the best place for relatively low powered pirate stations to be broadcasting at the moment. ADD - P.O. BOX 963, London, England, SW20 8XL.

CHRIS WATSON has been active with the occasional test transmission recently. The main frequency to check for such tests is 6280. You know you are listening to Chris whenever you heard continuous music followed by **RADIO GERONIMO** jingles.

RADIO CITY (from Scandinavia?) was active on May 14th with a relay via SBC on 76 metres. ADD - 4.

CLANDESTINE LISTENERS CLUB GERMANY has recently written to me with reference to **RADIO POPCORN**. This was originally a part of CLCG (the German programming section), but this is no longer so. POPCORN is a totally different station with their own address in Wuppertal. As far as CLCG are

concerned, programmes that should have been aired back at Easter on 6200 did not go ahead and nothing has been heard from the station at all. ADD - P.O. BOX 540101, D-47151 Duisburg, Germany.

RADIO DAIWA has not been too active recently but was heard QSOing on 76 metres at the beginning of April. ADD - P.O. BOX 102, 7360 AC Beekbergen, Netherlands.

RADIO EAST COAST COMMERCIAL is still active on every first Sunday of the month and good old Norman Nelson can be heard from around 0900 on 6255. The June transmission began with a very weak signal into our location but by the time the DX programme had begun, RECC was beaming in loud and clear. ADD - 9 - 11 Church Street, Cromer, Norfolk, England, NR27 9ER.

RADIO EUROPE from Italy continues to transmit nearly every Saturday and Sunday with 500 watts of SSB power. The signal here is usually quite listenable on 7293.9. ADD - via Davanzati 8, 20158 Milano, Italy.

FREE RADIO SERVICE HOLLAND continue to beam into Europe every now and again via a number of relays. Operator Peter Verbruggen recently contacted WGAS to try and obtain a 76 metre relay but this will not be going ahead. It would, however, be nice to hear FRSW on this band, perhaps with their own transmitter? ADD - P.O. BOX 2727, 6049 ZG Herten, Netherlands.

FREE RADIO SERVICE LONDON has not been so active just lately, which is probably down to the long skip and fadeout conditions on 48 metres. A few transmissions have been logged though, containing the usual pre-recorded messages and pirate recordings.

RADIO GLORIA INTERNATIONAL

from Scotland has been quiet recently, but was heard on May 22nd calling for a QSO. Scotland SW pirates seem to have gone to sleep for the spring and summer. Come on you lazy bunch and switch on!!!!!!! ADD - 5.

GOOD MUSIC RADIO from the UK was heard on May 15th, battling through pretty bad propagation conditions on 48 metres. 6280 was the channel, and this is where you will usually find GMR. ADD - GMR Towers, Beccles, Suffolk, England.

RADIO HELGOLAND

was active on Saturday 11th June for the first time in ages. Frequency was 6290. ADD - P.O. BOX 59, 7260 AB Ruurlo, Netherlands.

RADIO JIMMY INTERNATIONAL is another of the Dutch pirates who deserves a good pat on the back for breaking away from the traditional pirate broadcasting time and band.

As a handful of other Netherlands pirates, JIMMY has been active recently on 76 metres and gives a fair signal to the UK. ADD - P.O. BOX 102, 7360 AC Beekbergen, Netherlands.

JOLLY ROGER RADIO is still active every Sunday morning and some Saturday nights as well. 6229 is the frequency as ever, and several presenters can now be heard, helping to widen the station's format beyond only country music. ADD - P.O. BOX 39, Waterford, Eire.

LASER HOT HITS who could have connections with RADIO GEMINI, have been heard a few more times during the last couple of months with relay transmissions on 48 metres. ADD - 5.

LIVE WIRE RADIO seems to have woken up at last and operator Bill Lewis has blown the dust off his old transmitters. They seem to be working just about and splattering a good distance either side of the intended frequency! 76 metre transmissions

Don't forget that short wave Free Radio DOES exist outside of Sunday mornings!

are the favourite at the moment and Bill has been heard with programmes and QSOs at all hours of the day and night. Good to hear you active again and stand by your phone Bill, you might have me on the end of it one day! ADD - 6.

RADIO MARABU are not as active as they were when the BIRS was up and running, but programmes can still be heard every now and again. MARABU has recently been heard on 6229 and 6295 with relays and also with their own transmitter on 7484. ADD - 4.

RADIO MERLIN INTERNATIONAL may be longer returning to the airwaves than previously thought, if the station actually returns at all. Operator, Paul Watt has recently received a letter stating that he has 18 summonses to appear at Chelmsford Magistrates Court on June 7th 1994. These are for a variety of offences, mainly surrounding illegal broadcasts at Christmas 1993. The outlook for this ardent broadcaster does not look too good at all just now so I wish Paul all the very best of luck. ADD - 7.

RADIO METEOOR continues to be one of the more active Dutch SW pirates, and can be heard on a regular basis, using mainly 76 metres. The Dutch pirates sure have made use of 3 MHz

as the new pirate band, and METEOOR can usually be heard several times a week. Saturdays and Wednesdays are the best days to listen out, at around 1700. The favourite frequency is now 3920. ADD - P.O. BOX 71, 7720 AB Dalfsen, Netherlands.

RADIO MOONLIGHT is the most active Dutch SW pirate at present, and is making excellent use of 76 metres. The station has been heard numerous times of late at all times of the day and night. Output power is 15 watts which is sometimes unbelievable from the signal received here and in other parts of Europe. Listen out for MOONLIGHT at more or less any time in the 3910 - 3950 kHz range. ADD - P.O. BOX 102, 7360 AC Beekbergen, Netherlands.

RADIO NORTHLIGHT was heard here at the PC HQ on Sunday May 22nd. 6206 was used and the station heard at 0904. It is not sure which NORTHLIGHT this was or if indeed, it was a new one! Any info?

OPTIMOD is one of the stations that Paul Watt from RADIO MERLIN was accused of relaying during his recent court appearance. This media information broadcaster has been heard a few times during the last couple of months, but since their new relay ANGEL FM has been raided, I'm not too sure what happens now? ADD - 7.

OZONE RADIO INTERNATIONAL can certainly not be accused of being boring as to the frequencies he uses and the times of day which he transmits! So many stations nowadays seem to be stuck to the Sunday morning syndrome on 48 metres and seem unable to transmit at any other time. OZONE, on the other hand, has been monitored carrying out numerous test transmissions during early Sundays and on a host of frequencies on 5 MHz, and

even the old OZONE channel on 6820. Transmitting on 5 MHz is a **VERY GOOD IDEA** at the moment because it is lower than 6 MHz where total fadeouts are becoming commonplace, and higher than 3 MHz where daytime transmitting has very good results but not for particularly long distances. Good on you Mr. Ozone, and also Gary Stevens for prompting these transmissions into existence! Let's hope that something regular gets going with 5 MHz from not only OZONE, but other Europirates as well. ADD - 1.

RADIO PACMAN made a surprise night-time programmed transmission late on May 14th. Henk was heard with only 6 watts into a longwire and with a very good signal here in England. He was also busy on Thursday 9th June on 3931.3. It was great to hear PACMAN with a programme and let's hope that this station begins to make more use of 76 metres -

THE BEST PIRATE BROADCAST BAND OF THE MOMENT

PACMAN ADD - P.O. BOX 103, 8120 AC Olst, Netherlands.

RADIO PANDORA has now switched to 48 metres and has made a few transmissions on 6225. To date, I have not heard any of these due to poor conditions but in time I hope to hear the station at last. ADD - 2.

RADIO PIRÁÑA INTERNATIONAL has not been as busy as previous months just recently, but this is due to domestic problems. However, Jorge Garcia has been heard QSOing a few times of 76 metres and with the odd programme which has been nice to listen to. ADD - 4.

RANDOM from France which was first relayed by RADIO STELLA last year, were active in April on 76 metres via SBC. ADD - 5.

RADIO REFLEX is reported to have permanently closed down. This is due to concentration with legal transmissions on 2 metres. This is quite a sad loss for SW because REFLEX had become a Dutch pirate that was audible not only on Sundays but at many other times as well, and always with good signals. Good luck Henk and Martin, and perhaps I will see you in August?

SIERRA FOXTROT ZERO THREE is still quite active on SW, mainly 76 metres, with QSO transmissions. Operator, Brian is trying to get things sorted out with his other transmitter so that he can air proper programmes. When things actually get going, the frequency to check is 6208. The signal is getting out but problems lie with the modulation. **SUBTERRANEAN SOUNDS**' Steve Midnight has recently trying to be of assistance so now we will have to wait and see what happens.

SOUTHERN MUSIC RADIO's future is uncertain at the moment because the main relayer of this Pacific pirate, BIRS, is still off air. However, the station was heard recently via SBC on 76 metres, so perhaps this will become the new outlet for SMR. ADD - 3.

STARSHINE RADIO is now pretty active and probably Scandinavia's most active SW pirate. This 76 metre operation runs around 80 watts and can be heard mainly on Saturday nights. Transmissions usually begin with a programme and end with a QSO.

STARSHINE always seems to be able to start QSOs rolling. A good example was May 22nd when PIRANA, MOONLIGHT, WAVE etc all joined in!

Long may STARSHINE continue to broadcast and pioneer the major 76 metre QSOs! ADD - c/o DPRS, 12 Dorman Road, Preston, Lancashire, England, PR2 6AS.

SUBTERRANEAN SOUNDS has been very busy on 76 metres just lately, and operator, Steve Midnight would very much like to see this become the new pirate band. Conditions are often very good and the possibilities for broadcasting are astounding. A recent test carried out by Steve with just ±50 milliwatts was heard at the PC HQ over 100 miles away! If this is possible, just think what higher power can do! **SUBTERRANEAN** has now adopted somewhat of a Dutch schedule and like the pirates from Holland, can be heard broadcasting at more or less any time. Frequencies to check are 3905 and 3945. Watch out for the music now being played; Steve is moving gradually towards an all dance format, something that there should be plenty more of on SW. ADD - 1.

RADIO WAHNSINN along with **RADIO DINO** is still active via European relays. Programmes are mainly in the German language and the station produces its own magazine. ADD - 4.

WAVE RADIO INTERNATIONAL has crawled out of the woodwork recently and has been heard with a few late night / early morning 76 metre transmissions. Signals in SSB are always very good in my part of the world. Anybody waiting for a QSL from the Waveman might not have to wait too long now because he has recently started to formulate a few design ideas! ADD - c/o SRS.

WORLD'S GREATEST ANORAK STATION have been relatively busy with relays of late but their own programmes have been aired with

another transmitter, and the frequency to check for WGAS is nearly always 6219. ADD - 3.

XENON TRANSMITTING COMPANY is active once again now that Tommy Teabags has fixed his modulator troubles. He can be heard every now and again with 48 metre transmissions. With such variable conditions on this band though, perhaps you should consider broadcasting elsewhere Mr. Teabags. As you have heard 76 metres is excellent at the moment, and it certainly would be very nice to hear you on 3 MHz. If I can hear **SUBTERRANEAN SOUNDS** during the daytime with ±50 milliwatts, your signal should get out fine, especially considering that you have now built a 76 metre dipole! ADD - 34b Drift Road, Clanfield, Waterlooville, Hampshire, England, PO8 OJL / 4.

CONTRIBUTORS

Clandestine Listeners Club Germany
Radio Merlin International
Radio Pandora
Subterranean Sounds
Swedish Report Service
Pirate Chat Editor
Gary Stevens

ADDRESSES USED FOR SHORT WAVE SECTION:

- 1) 32 Victoria Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England, SP1 3NG.
- 2) P.O. BOX 386, 5900 AJ Venlo, Netherlands.
- 3) B.P. 130, 92504 Rueil Malmaison, Cedex, France.
- 4) P.O. BOX 220342, 42373 Wuppertal, Germany.
- 5) P.O. BOX 293, Merlin, Ontario, Canada, N0P 1WO.
- 6) 14 Stone Row, Coleraine, County Londonderry, Northern Ireland, BT52 1EP.

- 7) P.O. BOX 1218, Chelmsford, Essex, England, CM1 4BD.

D.P.R.S.

Dutch Pirate Radio Service

c/o DPRS - 12 Dorman Road, Preston, Lancashire, England, PR2 6AS.

c/o SRS - Ostra Porten 29, S - 442 54 Ytterby, Sweden.



RADIO DUBLIN have been omitted from the main SW section for some reason - I've no idea why! Because the station is 24 - 7, I don't seem to think of it as being pirate! Anyway, the frequency is still 6910 and modulation seems to have recently been improved to a certain degree, making listening more pleasurable. Oh yes, please can somebody from the station send me some FM news from Ireland ready for the next issue of PC? Thank very much indeed! ■

Late short wave news . . .

As we were about to go to print, some more short wave news arrived in the office from our Chelmsford address. Luckily, I am able to fit it all in and hope that it will be of interest.

The majority of news that has arrived is connected with recent and forthcoming activites on 7125 kHz - 41 metres. On this frequency, you will now find the Switzerland Free Radio Service which is aired via the

IRRS in Italy. The SFRS claim to be "*the only legal Free Radio relay service in Europe*". I can see the logic behind this, but how can something be totally Free Radio and independent if it is legal? It seems as though the activities are claiming to be pirate but in the true sense of the word are far from this. However, nevertheless, I will now print the schedule for 'Free Radio' activity on 7125 in the next few months:

June 4th, 1994 - August 6th, 1994

04th June 1994	IMR - Voice of Basel <i>Operator Yves, with guest DJ</i>
11th June 1994	GBMS - Germany's Better Music Station <i>Two hour programme</i>
18th June 1994	SMR - Southern Music Radio <i>This station will also be active on 20/08/94, 15/10/94 and 17/12/94</i>
25th June 1994	Radio Casablanca <i>Listen out for the special language!</i>
02nd July 1994	Radio Art <i>New station from a very well-known DXer!</i>
02nd July 1994	Radio Sparks <i>This station will also be active on 03/09/94, 05/10/94 and 07/01/95</i>
09th July 1994	Radio Fantasy <i>Everything is crazy at this station!</i>
09th July 1994	Radio Marabu <i>First programme on 7125!</i>
16th July 1994	Radio Joystick <i>Funky sound for Central Europe</i>
16th July 1994	IMR - Voice of Basel <i>Mr. Yves from Basel city</i>
23rd July 1994	Radio Francis Drake <i>Made in good old Germany</i>
23rd July 1994	Calypso Radio <i>Your sunshine reggae music station</i>
23rd July 1994	Radio Hoch-Weisel International <i>First programme on 7125!</i>
30th July 1994	Radio Fantasy <i>Another part of the crazy show!</i>
06th August 1994	Radio Art <i>Part two of this monthly programme</i>
06th August 1994	IMR - Voice of Basel <i>Enjoy some music from Switzerland</i>

All transmissions on 7125 will begin at 1300 C.E.T.

TRADING CORNER

SWEDISH REPORT SERVICE NEWS

The SRS who forward mail to many Scandinavian SW pirates and to Pirate Chat, are now producing a weekly news sheet. This is available via fax for a small amount. Write for further details to: SRS, Ostra Porten 29, 442 54 Ytterby, Sweden.

ALTERNATIVE PIRATE MEDIUM WAVE NEWS

The APMWN is published bi-monthly by top European MW DXer, Derek Taylor. Containing news and logs from the fascinating world of Dutch MW this publication should not be missed. Send for your copy today. The cost is only 3 first class stamps or 2 x IRC from: 12 Dorman Road Preston England PR2 6AS.

HELP!!!

Did you listen to Scandinavian Pirates during the 70s and 80s? Any information would be welcomed. Send copies of QSLs and info sheets to: **SRS, Ostra Porten 29, 442 54 Ytterby, Sweden.**

PIRATE CHAT 45/46 - NOT TO BE MISSED!!

Please note that Pirate Chat is now using two addresses. Both are fully functional and mail arrives at our HQ quickly. Please make sure though that only the letters from Scandinavia are sent to our Swedish address. All other letters should be sent to our Chelmsford address.

48 REPORT

This is a weekly news sheet containing information and logs from the previous weekend's short wave activity. The cost for a sample copy is \$1, which should be sent to:

Stefan Printz,
Kämnärvägen
13D:220, 22646 Lund,
Sweden

Don't forget to tune to 76 metres for day-time and night-time Free Radio activity!!

Special North American profile feature

WEED and WLIS

In this issue of Pirate Chat, a couple of profiles are included because the news has not arrived from across the pond at the time of going to print.

The first station to come into the spotlight is WEED - the pro-marijuana, anti-establishment pirate.

WEED started test broadcasts in late 1991 and early 1992 with the first documented reception by Harry Helms of San Diego on March 29, 1992 at 0729 UTC. According to station manager, Johnny Smoke, "It was late at night here and we were testing our equipment. Needless to say, we were excited to hear the report on 'Signals' the following weekend of reception. We knew nothing about pirate radio and really didn't care because out here in the West we never heard much worth listening to." The WEED format had been developed months before and everyone involved was excited to be on the air. Johnny continues, "We would get our 'radio checks' thanks to 'Signals' and that's all we needed."

Since the beginning, strong signals have been a WEED virtue. Not only do they provide the West with a strong, clear, alternative station, but apparently, the East Coast gets a regular ear full of the WEED as well. This thrilled the staff since they use, in their words "very low power outputs." One has to wonder just how 'low' this output is, since WEED just received two reception reports from New Zealand!

WEED has been providing short wave listeners with, as one listener wrote "Surreal commentary on the insanity of the drug war." You won't find any bleeding heart liberals at WEED, which supports a Libertarian philosophy.

Hardcore WEED listeners (of which there are many) know that Johnny and his cohorts try to be anything but politically correct. Past broadcasts have voiced outrage with the war on drugs, the Waco, Texas/Branch Davidians tragedy, Randy Weaver, or as Johnny puts it "*Whatever happens to be stuck in out craw that day*" Johnny continues, "*Many a late night out there on the 41 metre band there has been some poor SWLer tuning around trying to find WEWN, WWCR, VOA, or whatever, and has stopped at our broadcasts on 7415 or 7465 and said to themselves "What is that crap?" To tell the truth, we never care that much if people like us or not, and we don't feel we have to change anything if someone somewhere says they think we stink! Turn off the radio! Ha! Ha!*"

WEED is definitely a station that only a hard-core listener (one that has heard every show, according to Johnny) can truly define. One thing, however, that is a constant theme in WEED programming is pro-legalisation of marijuana, and lots of what Johnny calls "*Weird and sometimes obnoxious music. Lots of new and old stuff or whatever we like or feel is appropriate for the time.*"

At first, WEED solicited reception reports through the Radio Hobby Online (RHO) BBS. After many months, the station hooked up with a mail drop and QSLs began to appear in DXers' mailboxes. Johnny says "*We realise that we caused a lot of listeners some frustration with the delay of the RHO BBS QSL requests, but, at the same time, who were they listening to while they waited? Ha! Ha!*"

SPECIAL NORTH AMERICAN PROFILE FEATURE

Everyone who posted reports on the RHO BBS should have received a "Nuns With Guns / Quality And Nutrition With Good Taste" QSL by now. However, if for some chance there is someone out there who has not received theirs, follow-ups can now be sent to the WEED mail drop of:

P.O. BOX 605,
Huntsville,
AL35804,
USA.

The station is also interested in copies of any articles about WEED or loggings that appear in DX bulletins.

In case anyone wonders why they use large envelopes and pay extra postage to mail their QSLs, it is because the station personnel feel that, if they were to receive QSLs, they would want them unfolded. The staff of WEED hope everyone is pleased with their QSLs and says that colour QSL sheets are currently being developed.

At present, WEED broadcasts on 7465 USB (AM on rare occasions) and is considering new frequencies since WEWN took over the late night time slot. Johnny remarks "*It's funny that WEWN should start transmitting there just as we were establishing our stronghold on 7465. Maybe the FCC is selling air time on that frequency extra cheap just to shut us up! They sure did a nice job to 7415. It's a wasteland there now.*" The staff at WEED want everyone to know that they appreciate all the reception reports and kind words they have received on past broadcasts. When asked if there was any one listener whose reports they especially liked, Johnny said "*Yeah. The crazy stuff we get from Gigi Lytle. She's one weird grandma . . .*"

OK, well there's a look at WEED which came from an interview with station manager, Johnny Smoke and was extracted from The Ace.

On now to a look at WLIS - We Love Interval Signals.

WHY WLIS? A pirate station was created that was different to the typical album rock or dinosaur rock pirate. The staff see no point to playing The Doors or Nirvana when most FM stations are doing the same thing. WLIS, as well as airing an entertaining format by playing enduring favourite interval signals from Seychelles, Netherlands etc, provide guidance to DXers by providing decent quality recordings of lesser heard interval signals from India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia etc.

ONLY INTERVAL SIGNALS? No. WLIS try to throw in a song or two (usually something less mainstream) to give listeners something to put in their reception reports if they have trouble recognising interval signals. They also throw in recordings of station IDs from time to time.

WHOSE VOICES ARE WE HEARING? Usually Jack Boggan or verification signer, Charles Poltz.

DOES WLIS VERIFY? Yes and no. If your report is accurate, legible and includes return postage, they will verify. WLIS has cards and several different QSL sheets. They keep track of what QSL each listener receives so that new reports receive a new type of QSL. Of course, all QSLs feature Ian McFarland! WLIS also try to verify loggings seen in bulletins (if they are fairly current), but they prefer reports to be sent to the station address.

HOW MANY REPORTS HAS WLIS RECEIVED? At last count, they had issued 260 QSLs for 25 transmissions dating back to March 4, 1990. Only two reports have been refused which both came from the same listener in Minnesota.

WHY HAVEN'T I HEARD GREENLAND'S INTERVAL SIGNAL ON WLIS? The station does not have great recordings of every interval signal. If a listener wants to hear something that hasn't been played, a request can be made, or even better, the listener can send a recording of the particular signal.

Radio Kiwi from New Zealand was active on short wave a couple of months ago. On the 16th April at 0515, the station was heard on 7445 and were saying "*This is a test transmission of Radio Moraki.*" Another identification was also made: "*This is a test from Kiwi.*" Sign-off was at 0537 UTC and reception in New Zealand was good.

At 0728 UTC, the Kiwi returned with the bird call of the Kiwi

On April 17th at 0658 on 7446.7 USB, the station was back again playing pop music.

On April 24th, Kiwi was active at 0658 UTC on the usual USB channel until 0829.

It seems as the New Zealand SW pirate scene has been quite interesting in the past months. I have heard that the other SW Down Under Free Radio broadcaster, Radio G'Day has also been active recently on 7445 and other 41 metre band frequencies.

FUTURE PLANS? Hopefully, some newer interval signals along with some station IDs from countries that aren't on short wave, such as Fiji!

Well, there you have it - a profile in question and answer format which originated from some information compiled by the Chief WLIS Verification Signer, Charles Poltz. ■

PIRATE CHAT September - exclusive reports directly from the Dutch pirate scene

Medium Wave News from The Netherlands

All times UTC
compiled by the Pirate Chat Editor

Freq.	Station	Time	Date	1645	LASER	2210	22/05	PC	
1636	UTOPIA	2222	08/04	PC	1645	BARONES	2210	26/05	PC
1636	TIJDBREKER	2313	16/04	PC	1645	LASER	2225	26/05	PC
1636	PELIKAAN	2220	22/04	PC	1645	BARONES	2248	28/05	PC
1636	PELIKAAN	2212	27/04	PC	1645	LASER	2109	31/05	PC
1636	UTOPIA	2240	08/05	PC	1645	BARONES	2132	02/06	PC
1636	UTOPIA	2151	13/05	PC	1645	LASER	2135	02/06	PC
1636	SCHADUWJAGER	2236	14/05	PC	1645	HAWAII	2134	03/06	PC
1636	UTOPIA	2229	26/05	PC	1645	HOLLANDIA	2225	04/06	PC
1636	PELIKAAN	2202	03/06	PC	1645	LASER	2240	04/06	PC
1636	PELIKAAN	2337	04/06	PC	1645	BARONES	2131	06/06	PC
1637	TIJDBREKER	2122	07/05	PC	1646	TOULOUSE (B)	2212	22/05	PC
1637	SPANNINGZOEKER	2041	22/05	PC	1647	BARONES	2106	27/04	PC
1637	STORMVOGEL	2206	22/05	PC	1649	TOULOUSE (B)	2225	08/04	PC
1637	DELTA (Rurrl)	2142	02/06	PC	1649	TOEKOMST	2116	20/04	PC
1637	DELTA (Ruurlo)	2139	03/06	PC	1651	MEXICO	2232	08/04	DT
1637	DELTA (Ruurlo)	2157	04/06	PC	1652	BARONES	2127	08/04	PC
1638	CONCORDIA / STER etc	2306	15/04	PC	1652	BARONES	2156	23/04	PC
1638	VERONA (B)	2306	16/04	PC	1652	PSV / VALENTINO	2201	23/04	PC
1638	STUDIO 4	2144	06/05	PC	1652	BARONES	2310	14/05	PC
1638	GOUDEN STER	2054	07/05	PC	1655	BARONES	2306	15/04	PC
1638	PARTIZAAN	2208	07/05	PC	1660	ARMADA	2203	23/04	PC
1638	STUDIO 4	2156	02/06	PC					
1638	KLEINE MAN (B)	2245	04/06	PC					
1638	TIJDBREKER	2156	06/06	PC					
1640	UTOPIA	2302	08/04	PC					
1640	STORMVOGEL	2255	15/04	PC					
1640	STORMVOGEL	2216	22/04	PC					
1640	STORMVOGEL	2214	27/04	PC					
1640	TOEKOMST	2309	07/05	PC					
1640	UTOPIA	2218	26/05	PC					
1640	TIJDBREKER	2357	04/06	PC					
1641	NACHTEGAAL (B)	2308	02/06	PC					
1642	BLAUWE BULLDOG	2209	22/05	PC					
1645	BARONES	2300	04/04	PC					
1645	LASER	2057	04/06	JA					
1645	SANTANA (A)	2130	04/06	JA					
1645	BARONES	2207	15/04	PC					
1645	TOEKOMST	2209	15/04	PC					
1645	BARONES	2317	16/04	PC					
1645	SYLVANIA	2108	20/04	PC					
1645	TOEKOMST	2211	22/04	PC					
1645	BARONES	2223	22/04	PC					
1645	SANTANA (A)	2151	23/04	PC					
1645	BARONES	2129	06/05	PC					
1645	LASER	2200	06/05	PC					
1645	LASER	2137	07/05	PC					
1645	BARONES	2248	07/05	PC					
1645	BARONES	2120	08/05	PC					
1645	HAWAII	2157	13/05	PC					
1645	LASER	2240	13/05	PC					
1645	SANTANA (A)	2200	14/05	PC					
1645	BARONES	2246	14/05	PC					

PC heard by Pirate Chat Editor (central England)
DT heard by Derek Taylor (Preston)
JA heard by Jonny Augustsson (Sweden)

The authorities in the Netherlands are still pretty active as regards the pirates, which is scaring a few of them from broadcasting too often. Latest news from across the North Sea is that Almelo's Radio Sylvania has been caught, one hour after closing down his transmitter. Blauwe Reiger and Nova 4 have also been shut down along with a handful of intrepid FM pirates. The irony is that there is an FM pirate in Sylvania's neighbourhood which is striving to beat the current record for continuous broadcasting - they are aiming for 5,000 hours non-stop. This station is very close to Sylvania, but have not been touched by the authorities - strange!

The PTT told the operator of Sylvania that he was raided because of an interference report from Denmark, on 1645 kHz where he had been broadcasting. 1640 kHz is also apparently a dodgy place in which to transmit. This is somewhat worrying because if you take a look at the logs on this page, you will see that these two channels have become quite popular with a good many stations. ■

Pirate Radio from in France

"France Today (4th Edition)" edited by J.E. Flower (Methuen)(1980) and

"Francois Mitterrand: A Political Odyssey" by Dennis Macshave

Workers interest groups took things into their own hands and created their own 'pirate' broadcasting services in the late 70s, after disillusion with legitimate broadcasters.

July 1978 - pirate stations banned outright. Jamming and raids to be employed against pirates who continued. This was due, perhaps to government fear about Italian lessons: 400 TV and 2,000 Radio stations on air virtually without limits. The pirates organised themselves to counter "les foudres de la repression."

No things like Radio Caroline, Laser 558 in France - a bit like 'Our Radio' in London, 'Rebel Radio' in Bristol etc in 1980s - deeply concerned with local issues.

"An enthusiasm for broadcasting, largely based on a delighted rediscovery of the social utility of pirate radio, led many of the operators to begin transmitting before any kind of co-operation between them had been established, and thus they were unprepared for any systematic attempt to put them off the air" - Neil Harris (in Flower edited book).

PIRATE CHAT for the best in Free Radio news and features

Scandinavia on air

by Jonny Augustsson

Update...

Hello and welcome back to Scandinavia! What has happened since last time we took a close look at the Scandinavian scene?

A lot! Wave Radio International has started to play music on the 75 metre band. Quite good results but I think he can do better than that. Come on Waveman! This station has a power of around 150 watts USB and a superb antenna. He is often heard QSOing with other stations. If you're waiting for a QSL, I can tell you that Waveman has come so far now, that he has registered all the reports on his computer. So don't cry, miracles do happen once in a while!

Radio Fusion International has been the most quiet station lately. DJ Jolly Jake has also started up a new project called Radio DiscoTech, which will be aired via the Fusion transmitter with approximately 25 watts. The problem is that Fusion has a very poor antenna so I hope his neighbours don't complain about the weak signal (hi!!) However, Jake has been active with a few cqs and QSO trials.

On to Heavy Dude Radio and they are off the air at the moment because of transmitter loss. After the marathon broadcast in December, the transmitter said thanks and quit the job! Hopefully though, if everything goes well, a new 100 watt transmitter will arrive at the HDR HQ during summer. Mr. Heavy Dude will be heard over over stations in the mean time.

Starshine Radio has become the outstanding number one on the 75 metre band, with shows almost every second week and a quite stable signal. Last time I talked with the operator, Kim Hawk, he said that there will be a 50th transmission celebration in the very near future. And if I know Kim well enough, there will be a few beers in the studio that night! Let's hope that there are no "airbears" around!

Anyway, the Starshine shows are still in the form of rock and roll and fun to listen to with Kim having a good sing along with most tunes!

The Swedish Short Wave Relay Service have had some problems recently with their transmitter. Let's hope that they will fix that soon and return to 75 and 48 metres.

The Scandinavian Broadcasting Corporation have had quite a lot of relays recently. Stations like Random, City, Channel Europe and Strasbourg have been on air, and there are more to come, like Dr. Tim and Amazonia, according to op, Peter Laurett.

Channel Europe will probably be on air via Delta (Ruurlo) or SBC soon again, if everything turns out nicely. José Andersson has sent Gertie the Delta a letter and is waiting for the answer.

No sound from Christian Pirate Broadcasting Network, Makahari or Free Radio Norway. What has happened to them? Latest news does say though that FRN will do a show during June so let's hope for that.

I can tell you that there will also be a new Scandinavian station soon, Champions Radio. For the moment, they don't have a transmitter so they will probably go by relay via the SSWRS.

Finally, another station was heard on June 12th on 6206.45 kHz. This station comes from Scandinavia and the programme was in Swedish, and was called 'Radio Nord Comes Back'. This was NOT a relay; the operator of the transmitter just put something out over the air for an equipment test. Reports for this can be forwarded by the SRS (for full address see PC front cover or A-Z SW Section).

OK, there are all the facts from the Scandinavian scene today.

The Subterranean Meeting

by Andy Winter

It all happened quite a few weeks ago now, and like so many things, I was looking forward to it, and in a flash, it had passed me by and I was wondering whether or not the whole episode had actually happened! Everything had taken place so quickly, and so much had happened - you just wouldn't believe it!

Anyway, I will start at the very beginning and let you all know what I am talking about.

A few months ago, I was talking to the operator of well known 76 metre band pirate, Subterranean Sounds. Steve Midnight and myself are good friends and have talked to each other most weekends for the past few years. We discuss anything and everything concerned with radio and whatever else that springs to mind! In one of our many conversations, I announced to Mr. Midnight that I would visit him in the near future, not giving him much say in the matter! However, he's a nice enough guy and didn't lodge any objections to my plans. The date was decided upon and I noted it all down in my diary - well, I would if I had one so I just made a fairly positive mental note in the hope that I wouldn't forget about it!

On Saturday April 9th, I got out of my bed, which is just to the side of the Radio London studio, and saw a rare sight beyond the window - sun! The day had started off on the right track and was destined to turn out well. The next thing I did after getting myself together and bags packed to the brim with all sorts of radio gear, was to dash down into my local town. Amongst other things here, I won a £6 jackpot on a monopoly machine in the amusement arcade! Things were now looking even better and I had a good feeling about the weekend in front of me.

I had met Steve twice before, the first encounter giving rise to the 48 metre band spoof station, Fruitcake Radio. This all evolved from Steve's passion for fruitcake

and my good old mum baking him one! In fact, while I'm on the subject of fruitcakes, you might like to know that whenever I now visit Steve, a fruitcake always accompanies me and eventually finds the way into his fridge! In future, whenever you hear Mr. Midnight waffling on about cake on his shows, you'll know what he's on about!

Anyway, back to the story and after having done what I had to do, I returned home, got my luggage and headed for the railway station. The journey ahead of me was neither too long or too short (I don't give much away!), and took a few hours. Upon reaching my first destination, I had to change trains and after doing this, change trains again, until some time later I eventually reached the local railway station of Subterranean Sounds! I was nearly there - only minutes away from arriving at the home of one of Europe's prominent pirate institutions! In a way, of all this was rather exciting, even more so in this case, because as arranged, Tommy Teabags, the operator of fellow SW pirate, XTC was also going to be waiting to meet me. It must have been quite strange for him to see two new faces in one day because he had not had the great privilege (!) to meet either myself or Steve before. I sure hope the shock didn't prove to be too much! It couldn't have been too bad though, because on thinking about it, Mr. Teabags still managed to knock a few beers back quite easily!

Anyway, I arrived at the location which was fairly easy to find - all I had to do was follow the huge neon signs with the pirate station name. You can see them for miles you know - absolutely fantastic! Mr. Midnight was as he had been last time, but perhaps his hair was a little shorter - I'm not too sure! Mr. Teabags was similar to the expected - very tall, and as most SW pirates, his voice in reality, is exactly the same as when he is on air.

THE SUBTERRANEAN MEETING

I was now inside the home of Subterranean Sounds and had met the station operator and the mystery person behind another international favourite. It was all too much for me! Well, by 0400 the following morning, it certainly was. Between my arrival and the early hours of next day, the three of us had trekked along muddy paths and country roads and got very lost, and ended up in the pub, and also made several 76 metre band transmissions! It was all good fun and in the name of Free Radio. We had done so much in a very small amount of time and were still talking and listening into the early hours. My eyes were gradually getting heavier though and I could not take much more. At just after 0400, I retired to my bedroom for the night and listened to some inspiring local radio - I was asleep in minutes!

The next day was Sunday - Free Radio day. I was quite looking forward to tuning the bands with my pirate friends. However, disaster struck! As usual, conditions were awful! We could hardly hear anything, except for a small amount of Dutch activity down on 3 MHz. After this little burst, the bands went very quiet and we hardly heard anything for the rest of the day. However, we all carried out a variety of experiments with radios and antennas and talked about the demise of Free Radio and its better points as well!

On the Sunday night, Tommy Teabags left us to head for home. It had been very nice to meet him and now whenever I listen to him, I can imagine just what he looks like and how very tall he is!

With Mr. Teabags heading home, myself and Mr. Midnight were on our own and talked for hours. For once it was not costing us and lining British Telecom's pockets with profit at the same time!

At around 2100, we decided that it was time for something to eat and after sampling some vegetarian cuisine, we checked the 76 metre band and switched on to make another broadcast. Neither of us knew quite what we were going to do when the rig was switched on, but we played a few records

and had a good laugh at the same time. Whether the signal got out anywhere, we are not too sure because nobody came up with a report. Anyway, we didn't care. We had transmitted and had a fun time, and that was the main thing.

After the broadcast, we talked some more and then I decided it was time to send myself to sleep by listening to some more legal FM rubbish.

Monday morning arrived and although this was the day that I was to return back to my own territory, Mr. Midnight and I had one final mission to accomplish. We had decided to visit Paul Watt of Radio Merlin International. This was not without a number of incidents, such as getting lost in the middle of an unfamiliar town and walking miles out of the way! All good fun though!

Meeting the person behind the fearless Merlin was very interesting. We were able to see where the set-up had been before the last DTI raid. Both myself and Steve were astounded to see that when Paul had been busted, not only had all of the equipment been taken, but parts of the wallpaper in the studio had even been ripped off in desperate attempts to remove stickers and postcards sent in by listeners. I know that the authorities have their job to do, but taking it to such extremes does seem to be almost vicious. Anyway, we all chatted and watched a few videos of Merlin in its heyday, and Steve and I eventually left Mr. Merlin to go about his business free from disturbance.

My Subterranean weekend was just about finished, and I had accomplished a great deal in the process! Many thanks to everybody who made everything possible!

I was now on my way home and it was difficult to comprehend everything that had happened. While eating my British Rail rip-off salad sandwich and half reading a book, I thought about the weekend and how wonderful the concept of Free Radio really is. ■